



Duchy Trachtenberg

County Council

Montgomery County, Maryland



June 2010 Newsletter

In this Issue: [County Council Approves 6-Yr Fiscal Plan](#) | [MC 311 Launches](#) | [Rockville Library Renaming](#) | [Hosting Leisure World Town Hall](#) | [Championing the Commission on Veterans Affairs](#) | [Thanks from the Safe & Drugs Free Schools Program](#) | [Queen of the Mound Bethesda Big Train](#) | [A Winning Campaign Against Teen Pregnancy](#) | [Montgomery County Tenants Working Group Present Findings](#) | [Grand Opening of the Silver Spring Civic Building](#) | [First Baptist Church Celebration](#) | [Montgomery County Heritage Days Proclamation](#) | [Touring the PEG Network](#) | [Duchy In the News](#) | [Duchy's Recipe](#) | [Celebrating Our Farmers Markets](#) |

Montgomery County Council Approves Six-Year Fiscal Plan and New Reserve Policies

On June 29, 2010, the Montgomery County Council approved a six-year fiscal plan that outlines the spending limits needed to achieve balanced annual budgets. This is the first time the Council has approved such a plan to help reduce annual budget gaps and lessen the impact of severe economic downturns like the one the county has experienced over the past two years. The Council also approved measures that would gradually increase county reserve funds to 10 percent of adjusted governmental revenue over a nine-year period. The current county reserve target is 6 percent of total resources. The Council's Committee on Management and Fiscal Policy (MFP) Committee that I chair unanimously recommended both of these measures.

The six-year plan is a snapshot in time that reflects current assumptions for county revenues and fiscal policy. Using these assumptions, the plan achieves balance by limiting the future expenditures of the County's four agencies: Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and County Government. The plan will be updated annually and as conditions change. The plan, which applies to Fiscal Years 2011-16, is based on adherence to

established county fiscal policies in future years, but it also makes clear that the Council will make actual decisions year by year.

The Council's action is an important step but far from the last step towards results-based budgeting and performance accountability. As government at every level national, state, county and municipality struggles to reign in spending and find a way to maintain essential services, the urgency of sober and serious fiscal planning is inescapable and unavoidable. As stewards of the county's economy, the Council today has shown real leadership and a vision for the future. When the current crisis has finally past, I believe this fiscal plan will be seen as part of the solution that set county on a path of fiscal sustainability.

MC 311 Launches



The public is now able to access Montgomery County government information and non-emergency services online or by calling a single number: 3-1-1.

Customers can access information and create, or track, service requests on the new website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311. In the event of a community event or emergency such as a water main break or weather-related incident the 311 system can quickly incorporate real time information for the public.

MC311 can be reached from most wireless phones. Residents can reach the Call Center by dialing 240-777-0311, which is also the number to reach MC311 when calling from outside Montgomery County. The Call Center's hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The self-service website is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The TTY line is available by calling 240-773-3556.

By consolidating different county department call centers and information and tracking systems, MC311 has already projected more than \$10 million in savings between the current and upcoming fiscal years. My Management and Fiscal Policy (MFP) Committee has been supportive of the Technology Modernization effort that funded MC311, believing that upgrading the technology infrastructure for the county will help residents and businesses alike.

For more information about MC311, call the Office of Public Information at 240-777-6507 or visit the [311 FAQ page](#).

Rockville Library Renamed in Remembrance



I could not have had a prouder moment than being a speaker at the Renaming Ceremony of the Rockville Library on Friday May 28. The library will now be called *The Rockville Memorial Library* in memory of, and tribute to, local Montgomery County armed forces personnel who have fallen in service to our country.

There were more than 100 people gathered; among them were veterans from various wars, family members, well-wishers, County Executive Isiah Leggett, Senator Jennie Forehand, members of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs, and Edward Chow, Jr., Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs.

In my speech, I emphasized that the renaming of the library served as a poignant reaffirmation of the county's commitment to our service men and women who live as our neighbors, and to all those who when they were called went into battle with purpose, conviction, and courage to defend our interests throughout the world. We will never forget their sacrifices.

Hosting Leisure World Town Hall Meeting

The Montgomery County Council continued its efforts to find out what issues most concern residents when it hosted a Town Hall Meeting for the Leisure World / Northern Silver Spring area on Wednesday, June 16.

This was the third Town Hall Meeting hosted by the Council in 2010, which enabled residents to voice opinions on specific issues, and ask questions of the Councilmembers in an informal setting. Discussion topics included public safety, traffic, growth, the county budget, health programs, and the recently increased energy tax.

The meeting was taped for future broadcast on County Cable Montgomery (CCM cable Channel 6 on Comcast and RCN, Channel 30 on Verizon).

Championing the Commission on Veterans Affairs

I had the pleasure of joining the county's Commission on Veterans Affairs for their meeting on June 15. I was invited to speak about the possibility of establishing a community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) for our veterans in Montgomery County. I shared my ideas about a possible new public-private partnership that would provide needed medical and mental health services to the nearly 70,000 veterans who live in the county. I suggested that we consider modeling the project after the Family Justice Center that partners and I created in 2009 to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence and their families.

Commission members were very thoughtful with their suggestions on several matters including ways to obtain critical and valuable information about the number of Montgomery County veterans and their health needs. Our conversation and collaboration on this important issue will continue. Bill Gray, Commission Chair, and Betsy Luecking, staff liaison, are to be commended for their hard work and dedication to the needs of our veterans.

Thanks from the Safe & Drugs Free Schools Program



I was honored to receive a Certificate of Recognition from the staff of the Montgomery County Public Schools Safe and Drug Free Schools Program thanking me for my support and collaboration in the prevention of alcohol and other drug use among our youth.

I welcomed my friends Rita

Rumbaugh, Meg Baker, Barbara Pearlman, Mei Yin, and Emily Sudbrink and her son Chris to the Council Office Building in Rockville to bring attention to this very important issue.

The Certificate reads: This is to sincerely thank Duchy Trachtenberg, County Councilmember, for your continuing commitment, dedication and support for our students and our schools, through our partnerships for the prevention of alcohol and other drug use and violence. The certificate was signed by Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools, and Rita B. Rumbaugh, MCPS Safe and Drug Free Schools Specialist.

I was honored to receive this recognition and will continue my advocacy in support of Montgomery County's children, students, and safe and drug-free schools.

Queen of the Mound Bethesda Big Train and the Silver Thunderbolts

I so enjoyed being at the Bethesda Big Train game on the night of Saturday June 19, at the Shirley Povich Field in Cabin John Regional Park!

I joined Bethesda Big Train Founder and President Bruce Adams out on the pitcher's mound where he highlighted several outstanding young people and community organizations. It was a thrill for me to throw out the first pitch along with Marilyn Bagel of the Family Justice



Center Foundation (FJCF). FJCF was one of the non-profits featured that night at the game.

I was able to meet and greet many neighbors, friends, players, and others being honored that evening. I even met the Bethesda Big Train mascot, Homer! Big Train played the visiting Silver Spring Thunderbolts and the Big Train won the game 10 - 1. The Shirley Povich Field is

one of the nation's finest amateur ballparks and an amazing Montgomery County community resource; not to mention, one of the best family entertainment opportunities available anywhere!

A Winning Campaign Against Teen Pregnancy

The Trachtenberg Office attended the launch of the Gandhi Brigade's "Youth Moving Forward" Campaign, at the City Place Mall, where Latino youth addressed the issue of teen pregnancy, and witnessed the highly anticipated debut and unveiling of the campaign video and poster respectively.



The Gandhi Brigade is a youth voice project that was started in Silver Spring, Maryland. Adults with experience working with youth and media coached teens and young adults in the use of video and graphic arts to advocate on behalf of various social justice issues. Since its beginning the Gandhi Brigade has created dozens of social justice media pieces and is recognized in the Washington DC metropolitan area as a leader in the field of youth-led social

change.

In January 2010, the Gandhi Brigade convened a group of youths and launched a 13-week, youth generated, teen pregnancy prevention video production and graphic design project. For two hours every Friday afternoon through May, Heather Kubo and Hawa Touré from the Gandhi Brigade worked with at-risk teens from the community to produce three posters for print and three 30-second public service announcements (PSAs) for television. Recognizing the need for Latino teen pregnancy prevention messages in Montgomery County, Susan Cruz, from the University of Maryland's School of Social Work, brought together the Gandhi Brigade and the Latin American Youth Center as core partners.

For more information, visit the Gandhi Bridge at <http://www.gandhibrigade.org/>.

Montgomery County Tenants Working Group Present Findings

The Montgomery County Tenants Work Group (TWG), convened by the County Executive in October 2008, presented their report to the Council on Tuesday, June 22. I personally found the information to be rich and revelatory on the concerns of renters, who represent approximately 25.7% of our county's population. To that extent, I expressed my great concern and hope that future reports from the TWG, or others, will shed light on the demographics of both seniors as well as mentally and physically disabled individuals who may also face serious challenges in accessing and maintaining affordable rental housing. There were several discussions that alluded to the likelihood of a future bill in the State legislature on the issue of Just Cause Eviction .

Should you need additional information on the rights of renters, or are seeking resources and solutions as a landlord or tenant, visit the [Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs page](#). To view information on Landlord Tenant Law in Maryland, [click here](#).

A full copy of the group's report and findings can be found [here](#).

Grand Opening of the Silver Spring Civic Building

You are cordially invited to join me, and Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, for the Grand Opening of the Silver Spring Civic Building at One Veterans Plaza!

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on Thursday, July 8, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the new Veterans Plaza (intersection of Fenton Street and Ellsworth Drive) in downtown Silver Spring. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the public will be allowed inside the building to experience this wonderful new community space.

The general celebration begins at 4:00 p.m. with entertainment coordinated by the Silver Spring Town Center Inc. (SSTCI). The festivities will conclude with the first Silver Spring Swings Summer Concert featuring a performance by the Fabulous Bel Airs 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. For more information please visit www.silverspringdowntown.com.

First Baptist Church Celebration

It was a joyous occasion for me to attend the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring's International Day Celebration on Sunday, June 27, 2010. Along with our County Executive, and the County Council President, I enjoyed the fellowship, the thoughtful sermon, the wonderful singing, and the amazing celebration of the music, food and countries from the program that followed the morning service. The celebration was a great testament to the rich diversity we have in Montgomery County!

Montgomery County Heritage Days Proclamation



Proclamation text:

On June 22, I had the great pleasure in presenting a proclamation to the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County in recognition of *Heritage Days*. I was joined by my friend and colleague, Councilmember Marc Elrich in making the presentation.

Below are excerpts from the

WHEREAS, the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County is an initiative created by county leaders and state officials to preserve and share more than 300 years of Montgomery County's history with residents and visitors, ensuring that all understand and value the county's complete past; and

WHEREAS, Heritage Montgomery will be celebrating the Annual Heritage Days Festival on June 26-27, 2010; and will feature forty-five historic sites, including Uncle Tom's Cabin,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, hereby proclaims June 26-27, 2010 as HERITAGE DAYS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montgomery County Council takes this opportunity to recognize and thank Heritage Montgomery for its many years of outstanding service to the residents of the county, and in sponsoring Heritage Days.

Touring the PEG Network

On Tuesday, June 1, members of my staff toured the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) cable television network. The PEG network is an essential organization that creates and disseminates pertinent emergency information and TV programming to our community; and additionally provides video streaming, closed-captioning, and web casting of noteworthy Montgomery County events.

The tour included Montgomery County Public Schools Instructional TV, Access Montgomery, and Montgomery College. My staff viewed the three physical facilities including the studios, equipment and editing rooms. Highlights were learning about the Homework Hotline at MCPS Instructional TV and watching the hands-on training received by Montgomery College students.

To learn more about PEG channels, visit www.watchlocaltv.org/.

Duchy in the News

June 30

[Montgomery, Md., officials endorse budget austerity plans](#) *Washington Post*

June 23

[County pays benefits for some employees' unmarried partners](#) *Business Gazette*

June 16

[County mulls more responsible spending](#) *Business Gazette*

June 14

[MontCo leaders point to leaner budgets](#) *Washington Examiner*

May 28

[Rockville Library renamed after those who died serving country](#) *Gazette*

Duchy s Recipe

Frozen Raspberry and Macaroon Mousse

1quart fresh raspberries
1cup sugar
1cup macaroon crumbs
Pinch of salt
1/3 cup framboise
1quart heavy cream, whipped

1. Purée the raspberries and blend with sugar.
 2. Add the macaroon crumbs, salt and framboise.
 3. Blend with cream and pour into mold and freeze until mushy.
 4. Mix well and return to freezer until solid.
-

Celebrating Our Farmers Markets

Montgomery County Farmers Markets are in full swing! Our county continues to show a strong commitment to local food with a long list of Farmers Markets throughout the county. Make the time to visit a local farm with friends or the family, and let s all eat local and encourage sustainable living.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agstmpl.asp?url=/content/ded/agservices/agfarmersmarkets.asp>

For an Interactive Webguide Map of the Agricultural Reserve:

<http://mocoalliance.org/AgGuide/>

To learn more about Montgomery Victory Gardens visit

<http://www.montgomeryvictorygardens.org/>

For the best local products from Maryland farmers see

<http://www.marylandsbest.net/>